



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

NOV 14 2018

Ref: 19-F-0241

Mr. Masato Tainaka  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 62336  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Mr. Tainaka:

This is in response to your October 31, 2018, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, attached. We received your request on November 6, 2018 and assigned it case number 19-F-0241. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

This FOIA office only processes requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the Joint Staff (JS). There is no central FOIA processing point for records for the entire Department of Defense (DoD). FOIA processing is decentralized and delegated to those officials of the Military Departments and various DoD Components who generate and/or maintain the records being sought or reviewed. After carefully reviewing your request, we are not able to determine how the information you seek is associated with OSD/JS. Your request will be closed in this office with no fees assessed.

The information you are seeking, should it exist, may be held by the United States Pacific Command (PACOM), who operates its own FOIA office. However, according to the FOIA's legislative history, a description of records requested is sufficient if it enables a professional employee of the agency who is familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Courts have also stated that a request is reasonably described if the agency is able to determine "precisely" what records are being requested. The "reasonably described" requirement exists because the FOIA was not intended to reduce government agencies to full-time investigators on behalf of requestors. As such, it is the requester's responsibility to frame requests with sufficient particularity to ensure that searches are not unreasonably burdensome, and to enable the searching agency to determine precisely what records are being sought. We recommend you narrow the scope of your request to a specific set of documents relating to Operation Tomodachi if you choose to submit a new request to PACOM.

You may request these records, if they exist, directly from PACOM by submitting your request to the following address:

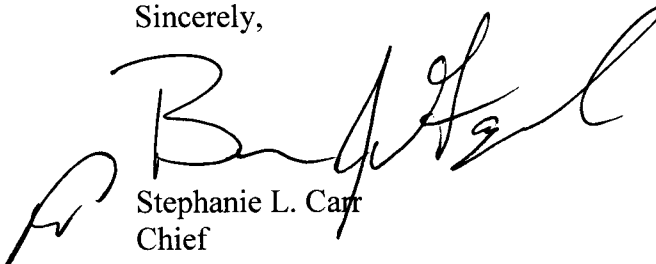
U.S. Pacific Command  
Attn: J06 FOIA Requester Service Center  
Box 64022  
Camp H.M. Smith, HI 96861-4022

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may contact our OSD FOIA Public Liaison, Jim Hogan, at 571-372-0462 or by email at [OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil](mailto:OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil). Also, please note that the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers services to requesters who have disputes with Federal agencies. You may contact OGIS if you have concerns about the processing of your request. Their contact information is provided below:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have any questions, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Nusheen Sikandar at (571)372-0437 or email at [nusheen.sikandar.civ@mail.mil](mailto:nusheen.sikandar.civ@mail.mil).

Sincerely,



Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosure:  
As stated

10-7-2018

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 62336  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
62336-04948239@requests.muckrock.com

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Defense Freedom of Information Division  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155

October 31, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

I would like to access all the documents related to the Operation Tomodachi or the US disaster relief operation after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant meltdown in 2011.

I am a Japanese journalist of the Asahi Shimbun newspaper, and I am requesting a fee waiver.

I have written several articles on the issue on Asahi Shimbun.

I also published recently an Amazon-Japan bestselling book titled "Soldiers Left Behind (Hyoryu suru Tomodachi)," which is about the Operation Tomodachi.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Masato Tainaka

Filed via MuckRock.com  
E-mail (Preferred): 62336-04948239@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 62336  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516